

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /081 W
-----110216 240337Z /75

R 231615Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7011
INFO AMCONSUL HONK KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UR, CH, PROP, SOPN
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON CHINA

REF: PEKING 0189

SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS IN RECENT DAYS CARRIED SEVERAL ANTI-CHINESE ARTICLES. SUBSTANCE OF THESE ARTICLES IS ROUTINE ENOUGH BUT THEIR APPEARANCE NOW IN RAPID SUCCESSION SUGGESTS ANOTHER UPSURGE IN CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CURRENT LEADERS OF CHINA, POSSIBLY CONNECTED WITH AN INTENSIFICATION OF POLEMICS (AND COMPETITION) RELATING TO THE INDOCHINA FIGHTING AND WITH SOVIET EFFORTS TO BLOCK A SINO-JAPANESE PFT. END SUMMARY.

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1. LITERARY GAZETTE OF JAN. 18 PUBLISHES A VERY LONG ARTICLE BY G. BARKOV WHICH, UNDER THE TITLE OF "THE SELF-UNMASKING OF PEKING'S PROPAGANDA," SEEKS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GANG OF FOUR IN THE NAME OF MAOISM IS A SHAM. BARKOV CLAIMS THAT THIS CAMPAIGN REPRESENTS ATTACKS BY ONE GROUP OF MAOISTS ON ANOTHER AND CONCLUDES BY ASSERTING THAT MAOISM'S "REACTIONARY, CHAUVINIST ESSENCE" REMAINS UNCHANGED, A THEME

STRESSED IN CURRENT SOVIET TV SERIES ON CHINA.

2. IZVESTIYA OF JAN. 20 PUBLISHES A LONG ARTICLE BY G.G.

NIKOLAEV ATTACKING THE CHINESE THEORY OF "THREE WORLDS." THE ARTICLE REPEATS OLD SOVIET CHARGES OF COLLUSION WITH REACTIONARIES AND IMPERIALISTS AGAINST THE DEVELOPING WORLD IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE CHINESE "GLOBAL HEGEMONY." NIKOLAEV CITES ALBANIAN AND OTHER CRITICISM IN AN EFFORT TO PROVE THAT THIS MAOIST POSITION HAS BEEN DISCREDITED NEARLY EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

3. PARAVDA OF JAN. 21 CARRIES TWO TASS ITEMS ON CHINA. ONE REPORTS AN ATTACK BY THE CUBAN PARTY NEWSPAPER GRANMA ON THE "MILITARIZATION" OF CHINESE POLICY AND ON PEKING'S ALLEGED MILITARY COOPERATION WITH NATO. THE OTHER, A REPORT FROM PEKING, CONDEMNS A SPEECH DELIVERED BY TENG HSIAO-PING AT A RECEPTION IN PEKING HONORING THE BARRE DELEGATION. TASS REPORTS THAT TENG WARNED THE FRENCH OF THE DANGER FROM THE USSR AND CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF A UNITED FRONT AGAINST MOSCOW. TENG'S "ABSURD ANTI-SOVIET INVENTIONS", ACCORDING TO TASS, ARE "EVIDENCE OF THE HOSTILE POLITICAL COURSE OF PEKING TOWARD THE USSR."

4. COMMENT: WE HAD NOT THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY AT THIS POINT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT PEKING IS HOSTILE TOWARD THE USSR, BUT TASS MAY BE WARNING THOSE WHO MIGHT HAVE SEEN CHINESE "GESTURES" LATE LAST YEAR AS SIGNS OF A GENUINE CHINESE DESIRE TO EASE STATE-TO-STATE HOSTILITY. THE CURRENT FLURRY OF ARTICLES
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CONDAMNING PEKING SUGGESTS A POLICY DECISION TO ATTACK FORCEFULLY BOTH CHINESE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES. THE REASONS BEHIND SUCH A DECISION ARE NOT CLEAR BUT MAY IN SOME WAY BE CONNECTED WITH THE CONTINUED FIGHTING IN INDOCHINA. WE NOTE (REFTEL) THAT PEKING HAS STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE SOVIET ROLE IN INDOCHINA AND THE TWO SIDES MAY BE MOVING TOWARD AN INTENSIFICATION OF PROPAGANDA ATTACKS BASED ON MORE OPEN SUPPORT FOR THEIR INDOCHINA CLIENTS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT MOSCOW IS SEEKING BY THIS MEANS TO WARN TOKYO AWAY FROM SIGNING A PFT WITH PEKING IN THE WAKE OF THE SODODA VISIT TO MOSCOW.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PROPAGANDA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW01062
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780034-0954
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780134/aaaabcir.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 68fe24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PEKING 189
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3731229
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRESS ON CHINA
TAGS: PROP, SOPN, UR, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/68fe24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014